

April 2015

IN THIS EDITION



First movie in the park set for May 8. See page 3.



Town wins award for mayor's show. See page 4.

TOWN HALL CALENDAR

April 21: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m.)

April 28: Town Council work session (6 p.m.)

May 4: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m.)

Meetings are in the Council Chambers in building B at Town Hall, 900 Seventh Ave. Town Council regular meetings are recorded and broadcast (not live) on GTVII (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-verse 99).



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GARNER UPDATE

Vol. 76, No. 82



Playing to a Full House

The award-winning and critically acclaimed bluegrass band Balsam Range played to a sold-out crowd at Garner Performing Arts Center on March 22. The concert was part of GPAC's It's Showtime! series, which brings a diverse range of national acts to Garner. Learn more about the series at garnerperformingartscenter.com.

Nextdoor Online Platform Offers New Way to Connect

The Garner Police Department and Neighborhood Improvement Manager Reginald Buie have adopted the Nextdoor platform to connect with residents to improve safety, strengthen virtual neighborhood watch efforts and share information about public events, important town news and neighborhood improvement initiatives.

On Nextdoor, neighbors create private websites to get to know one another, ask questions and exchange local advice and recommendations. The Garner Police Department and Mr. Buie are now able to share

important safety information, emergency notifications and neighborhood improvement notifications to residents on a neighborhood level through Nextdoor.

Nextdoor was specifically designed to make neighbors feel comfortable sharing information with one another. All members must verify that they live within the neighborhood. Information shared on Nextdoor is password-protected and cannot be accessed by those outside the neighborhood—including the Garner Police Department and other Town

Please see Nextdoor, page 2



Follow the Town of Garner on Twitter (@TownofGarner) for breaking news.



A Message from the Mayor



Watch the mayor's "Great People in Garner" on demand at youtube.com/townofgarner.

Well, by now, I expect that many of you have had a chance to check out the new Cabela's at White Oak. It is no doubt a great addition to Gar-



ner, and the new restaurants and other merchants it will attract will be a boon to our town as well.

With the grand opening of Cabela's and with spring finally taking hold, it's a good time to think about all of the impressive outdoor recreational opportunities

right here in our All-America City. I'd have to start out with Lake Benson Park and White Deer Park—160 acres of continuous open space with nearly 4 miles of paved trails and additional unpaved trails. These Town parks are unbelievable assets for a community our size.

Then add to that Lake Benson itself. Operated by the City of Raleigh as a water resource, the 364-acre lake provides great fishing and boating opportunities on weekends during the warm-weather months.

There are also fantastic nature

education opportunities year-round at the White Deer Park Nature Center. Finally, there are events such as the Friday Family Flicks, which include free movies and the chance for family camping in Lake Benson Park. The first one this season is May 8.

Yes, when it comes to outdoor activities, we are certainly blessed here in Garner. Hope to see you out enjoying what we have to offer sometime soon!

Ronnie S. Williams

Ronnie S. Williams

TOWN OF GARNER BOND PROGRAM

Big-Ticket Bond Projects Taking Shape

In the past month, the Town Council has held special meetings to review plans for both the new Town Hall, to be built on the existing Town Hall campus at 900 Seventh Ave., and the indoor recreation center slated for construction in historic downtown at the corner of Main and Montague streets.

Meanwhile, construction on the new police station at 912 Seventh Ave., as well as the parking area behind Wake County Southeast Regional Library, are coming along nicely after a soggy winter. During a special meeting on April 13, Council members met with architects to review building materials for the



Jim Powell with ADW Architects points to a mock wall during the Town Council's visit to the police station construction site on April 13.

exterior of the building. The plan is still for the new police headquarters to open later this summer.

In other bond-project news, the Town hopes to be able to open its first dog park in Garner Recreational Park (221 E. Garner Road) in May. To learn about the status of all bond projects, visit garnerbonds.com.

Nextdoor

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staff—or found on Google or other search engines. Town staff will not be able to see any of the content on neighborhood websites except for direct replies to police or Town posts. Nextdoor also never shares personal information with any third parties.

Nextdoor is not the appropriate way to request emergency services, police services, report criminal or suspicious activity or file a report. If you require emergency services, or wish to report suspicious activity, please call 911. The police also have a non-emergency line at (919) 772-8810.

Mr. Buie can be reached directly at (919) 773-4446 or rbuie@garnernc.gov.

You can join your neighbors, the Garner Police Department and Town of Garner in building a stronger, safer Garner today at nextdoor.com, or by downloading the free app (search "nextdoor" where you usually download your apps).



PRCR Seeks Volunteers for July 3 Celebration

The Town of Garner is looking for businesses, community organizations and individuals who would like to get involved with our annual Independence Day Celebration on July 3. With crowds reaching into the thousands, this event provides a wonderful opportunity to reach the citizens of Garner and the surrounding area. Here are ways you can get involved:

Food Vendors

Nonprofit organizations that wish to be food vendors for our annual Independence Day Celebration may now apply for consideration. We seek new and different food offerings

each year, and this event provides your organization a great way to raise funds. Applications are due by Friday, May 29 and can be found at <http://garnernc.gov/Forms/Parks and Recreation/July 3 Nonprofit Food Vendor Application.pdf>.

Crafts and Games

Community organizations or businesses that would like to provide Independence Day-themed crafts and games may also apply for consideration. Please note that, other than food, no solicitation is allowed at the event, so these items must be provided as community outreach, and activities requiring a fee will

not be considered. Applications are due by Friday, May 15 and can be found at <http://garnernc.gov/Forms/Parks and Recreation/July 3 Crafts Application.pdf>.

Volunteers

Volunteers are key to the success of events in our town. Business, church and community groups are encouraged to take part in this annual event. Help is needed with set up and break down, assisting guests with shuttle services, information booths and hospitality. Groups or individuals wanting to volunteer should contact Jill McAllister at jmcallister@garnernc.gov.

Friday Family Flick Slated for May 8

The Town's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department is showing "Monsters University" at Lake Benson Park on May 8 at 8 p.m. The movie is free. There is also an overnight camping option (\$12/family for town residents, \$15/family for non-residents). Please call (919) 661-6982 for more details or to register, or visit [this link](#). There will be a second Friday Family Flick movie/camping night on June 12. The movie that evening will be "SpongeBob: Sponge Out of Water."



Bringing Motown to Garner

In this tribute production show coming to Garner Performing Arts Center on May 2 7:30 p.m., Shadows of the 60's will perform hits that span decades. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$24 at the door. For tickets or more information, visit garnerperformingartscenter.com.

The Towne Players
Of Garner

The Dixie Swim Club

A Jones, Hope, Wooten Comedy!

April 17 & 18 and 24 & 25 at 8 p.m.

TWO Matinees ** **April 18 & 25 at 2 p.m.** ** TWO Matinees

Garner Performing Arts Center • 742 W. Garner Road

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR - \$15
www.towneplayers.org

Garner
2013
This
Recreational
Program is
supported by a
grant from the
Town of
Garner

Towne Players of Garner, Inc. is supported by United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, with funds from the United Arts campaign as well as the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

Five Southern women whose friendships began many years ago on their college swim team set aside a long weekend every August to recharge those relationships. They meet at the same beach cottage on North Carolina's Outer Banks to catch up, laugh and meddle in each others' lives. "The Dixie Swim Club" focuses on four of those weekends and spans a period of 33 years. The play, with performances at GPAC starting April 17, is the story of these five unforgettable women—a hilarious and touching comedy about friendships that last forever. For more information about the play and about the Towne Players of Garner, please visit towneplayers.org.



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Come to Where the Fish Are Biting

Want to try out that new fishing gear you bought at Cabela's? Head on over to the Lake Benson boathouse on Friday, Saturday or Sunday sometime soon and rent a boat (motorized or not) or canoe and cast a line in the water. You can also fish for free from the dock when the boathouse is open. For more information, visit garnernc.gov/Departments/Parks and Recreation/Facilities.aspx?ID=11.

Town Honored for Television Show Featuring Mayor, Garner Citizens

"Great People in Garner" with Mayor Ronnie Williams received a first-place award in the talk/interview show category from N.C. City and County Communicators (NC3C) at the organization's annual awards luncheon on March 19.

This is the second first-place, statewide award for the show in the past few months. In November, "Great People in Garner" received a first-place award, also in the talk/interview show category, from the N.C. Association of Government Information Officers.

"Great People in Garner" is an interview program featuring citizens who are active in the community and who have a significant record of achievement in Garner. The show is hosted by Mayor Williams.

The Town teams up with PEG Media Partners to produce "Great People in Garner" and its other television and video programming. Adam Carroll with PEG Media Partners films, directs and edits "Great People in Garner." Rick Mercier, the Town's communications manager, produces the show.

This latest award continues the Town's streak of winning at least one NC3C award in each of the last four years. The Town won three NC3C awards in each of the previous two years.

"Great People in Garner" episodes can be seen at youtube.com/townof-garner and on GTV11 (Time Warner channels 11 or 123.1, AT&T U-verse channel 99).

Gammon Joins Town Budget Team

Michael Gammon has joined the Town of Garner as its new budget and special projects manager after a nine-month stint with the Town as a management fellow.

Gammon is a native of Huntersville in Mecklenburg County and graduated from UNC-Charlotte with a master's of public administration degree and a bachelor's degree in



political science and criminal justice. He has been working for the Town since last June as a management fellow, focusing on budget and special projects. Gammon filled in for Jamie Ludovic,

who resigned her position as budget and special projects manager on Feb. 27, while she was out on maternity leave last year and performed many of the duties that he has now assumed permanently.

The budget and special projects manager prepares the Town's annual budget and analyzes it throughout the year, tracking primarily expenditures (the Finance Department tracks revenues). The person in this position also conducts operational analyses to look for efficiencies in Town departments and leads the Town's internal audit function, ensuring good stewardship of resources and compliance with the Town's policies and procedures. In addition, the person in this role handles special projects assigned by the town manager or Town Council.

Gammon has experience in the private sector working for QBE Financial Partners Services in RTP as a team leader of its property tax services group for escrow and tax operations.